

- I do want to share the results of some research I've done using the Walsh History Center at the Camden Public Library. The names Bok and Olmstead are likely very familiar to many of you.
 - 1935 – fire burned buildings and coal yard located on what we know as the Public Landing. Mary Louise Bok conversed with the Olmsted Brothers in appreciation for their practical and attractive plan and supported the town using federal monies.
 - 1936 – special insert of the Camden Herald comes out regarding the Town purchasing the land now known as the Public Landing. Indicates that Mrs. Bok agrees to assist with rebuilding the wharves, removing the fire ruins, and landscaping the area. Special edition ends with the statement “anything which will make Camden a more beautiful place in which to live will make it a more attractive place to visit.”
 - 1937 – Mrs Bok also suggests that if the town would do some seeding to get rid of the bare parts, she would agree to plant some trees
 - 1952 – communications from Camden Garden Club about recommended plantings; specific references made to “center turf area” and “turf space in the middle
 - 1953 – town manager Allen Torry communicates with Olmstead Brothers indicating “large green area cuts the number of parking space considerably”. Suggests it be smaller or 2 small islands. Olmstead replies that it should not be reduced because the design was to support a combination of park and parking. “if you reduce the grass area, I think that you will cancel the park effect which the open space with the trees around it would create”.
- We see that the idea of the Public Landing being something more than parking is not new. In fact, some of the people we closely identify with as Camden had a vision of the Public Landing being a mix of park and parking.